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Pack the Stands

Tritons land playoff spots despite Pack the Stands Night losses

By Cedric Williams

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Show brings together two unlikely lovers

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Seminar on 'Safe Zone' programs

Snow-pocalypse shut down University for two days



A winter storm brought an average of 8 inches of snow.

CHENHAO LI / THE CURRENT

MARY GRACE BUCKLEY
Staff Writer

The snowstorms that hit St. Louis earlier this month may not have reached the level of snow-pocalypse as some claimed it would, but the weather did manage to shut down the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Feb 1st and 2nd. Ice and, later, snow covered the entire St. Louis metropolitan area, and some outlying regions received as much as 15 inches of precipitation. This affected many of the university's commuting students, the demographic considered by the administration when deciding whether or not to close campus.

The two recent cancelations brought the total number of snow days to three this semester. That is more than in the last two years combined.

Unfortunately for both students and faculty, classes are now a full day behind many syllabi.

"Certain activities get shifted out of the classroom and onto the students' out of class time (screening certain film clips/segments, for example). Discussion time for certain topics gets squeezed so that we can stay on track," said one

professor who wished to remain anonymous. "My students had to listen to me lecture more than I normally would in a seminar class. But everyone has been very flexible, and we've managed with no serious problems."

Class time is not the only area that faces a crunch. Outside of class, even though a snow day technically gives student more time for homework, many fall victim to procrastination and the feeling of vacation.

"The disadvantage is when we go back and people feel disoriented and perhaps feel that professors should extend deadlines. However, doing so could affect the entire syllabus and grading scheme, as most of us teach more than one course," Kathleen Butterly-Nigro, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, said.

Teachers have been finding alternative ways to make new assignments available, like the Internet, though that has its setbacks.

"One option is to use the Discussion Board, but many students do not have computers at home, so we cannot make that a requirement. What I have done this year so far is to review major points in our readings and provide a study

guide that covers more specific issues in our reading," Nigro said. So perhaps concentration is the solution.

Still, some faculty will admit snow days do have their advantages.

"If the weather is very bad, classes are likely to have low attendance anyway. So students who do manage to come often have to sit through repetitions of material when the attendance gets back to normal. Snow days preempt this kind of problem," Sylvia Cook, Professor of English, said.

"I think everyone would agree that a surprise vacation is beneficial," Nigro said.

One group of people who did not get an impromptu vacation was the Sodexo food service employees who were still responsible for the meals of on campus students.

"We've been proactive with snow days getting our employees in here to Provincial House to feed the boarding students to make sure no one goes hungry," Charlie Kirby, Sodexo District Manager, said "When it's bad we have a group of people we start calling at three-thirty, four o'clock waking them up, seeing who can come in and who can get whom."

The UNDERCURRENT

by Chenhao Li

"What would you like for Valentine's day?"



"Chocolate!"

Rawan Al-Dahhan
Biology
Junior



"For my girlfriend to not make me celebrate Valentine's Day."

Nick Bova
Political Science
Junior



"A lovely surprise."

Franziska Weissgerber
Social Work
Graduate



"A chance to go out to eat and get some flowers and a good dinner."

Brittany Frehse
Business
Senior

**"Attacks on Journalism
reek of desperation"**

- From issue 1335

It is like Knut the polar bear. His mother left him for dead, so zookeepers intervened with nature and hand raised him. So, now what of Knut? An aggressive bear that cannot be controlled and disobeys the laws of his keepers. Israel? Anybody?

-Student

COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

World of Wings coming to Millennium Student Center

Einstein Bagels and Subway likely to enter campus dining selection as well

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

Beginning this fall, some familiar food franchises will be coming to the Millennium Student Center. Charlie Kirby, the district manager for University of Missouri-St. Louis' new food service provider Sodexo, said that a WOW Café and Wingery will be joining the roster of menu choices, beginning the next academic year and an Einstein Bagels Express is likely to do so as well.

WOW is a franchise from Louisiana that specializes in a variety of chicken wings as well as fajitas, hamburgers and other appetizers. Webster University currently has a Sodexo-operated WOW and has for many years. Einstein Bagels are a common sight around St. Louis and the express brand of that franchise offers a stripped down and streamlined menu.

Kirby said that new franchises on campus most likely would not be limited to just those two. "We are negotiating with Subway to see if they want to come on campus as a subcontractor,"

he said. "We can't run it ourselves due to proximity issues. They have to come on sight and do an analysis and they have all sorts of parameters that they have to satisfy before coming in." The WOW and Einstein Express will be able to be staffed by Sodexo personnel.

The Pilot House will contain the WOW and will also likely hold the Subway if a deal can be worked out with that franchise. "The Mexican concept could go away...that's still to be determined," Kirby said. "As we go we'll have focus groups and student involvement all the way." The Einstein Express will be taking the place of Aroma's on the MSC's second floor.

"I was surprised [franchise brands] weren't here when I started," Emmerich Schulte, senior, English, said. "People have been looking for that sort of thing."

Brent Hambrick, senior, English, said that the new choices "sound better than the food they have now."

Other changes on the horizon include implementing a touch screen "food on demand" program in which a student can type in his or order on a screen and have it prepared fresh and customized. Kirby said this system will first be installed

at Provincial House on south campus and in The Nosh later. Already, the credit card swipe has become part of the cash register, speeding up the previously sluggish process.

"When it was announced that there was a food service company change I think a lot of people automatically thought everything would change and it will to some extent overtime," Kirby said. "But due to the time frames we were all put under it will have to methodically change."

Despite the hurried nature of the transition from Chartwells to Sodexo, representatives from both the university and the food service provider feel that things have gone smoothly and will continue to do so. This is due, in no small part, to Sodexo's minimal staff changes.

Sodexo's Interim General Manager Steve Johnson said that approximately 95 percent of the Chartwells employees have made the switch to Sodexo. "They're all very open to [the transition] and they're great people," Johnson said.

"I'm looking forward to a great partnership and I think we made a great choice with [Sodexo]," MSC Director Benard Diggs said.

Litmag

Publishes April 18, 2011

LitMag is a student produced literary magazine aimed at giving a UMSL students a creative writing outlet.

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- Hard copy submissions go inside green LitMag box outside Lucas Hall 485
- Send E-Mail Submissions to
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- **Deadline: 2/24/2011**

Submission Guidelines

- No Identifying information on submitted work
- Submit work with cover sheet including: Name, Phone number, E-mail address all work must be previously unpublished
- Prose word limit: 20 pages, 5-6 per work
- Poem page-length limit: 10 pages total, 3 Max.
- Artwork number limit: 5 / All Genres

Sports

Tritons land playoff spots despite losses



UM- St. Louis Tritons against Drury university after the Pack the Stands event on Thursday night.

NITESH JAIN / THE CURRENT

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

Everything was set up for Pack the Stands Night to be a real party for the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams last Thursday night at the Mark Twain Building.

The university was throwing its annual basketball celebration, and asked all UM-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and alumni to come out and be a part of a night of free admission, free food and free prizes in support of Triton hoops.

The Triton players and coaches were all pretty fired up about the chance to play in what annually is the biggest home crowd of the season.

Unfortunately, the visiting Drury basketball teams were very rude houseguests and sapped all the fun out of the evening, first by knocking off the Triton women 57-50 in overtime, then by pummeling the Triton men 73-47.

Drury came to the Mark Twain with a firm grasp on first place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division on both the men's and women's side.

But the UM-St. Louis men had a chance to reclaim the lead it had had in the division for most of the season, if it could pull off the upset over the Panthers.

The UM-St. Louis women also had huge stakes on the line

against Drury.

The Triton women were just one win away from clinching a spot in the playoffs this year and were hoping to earn that playoff berth with a big win over the much bigger Lady Panthers.

Drury used its size advantage to build a 32-25 lead at halftime and seemed poised for a breakout run in the second half. But UM-St. Louis just would not allow it.

The Tritons held Drury to just 12 points the entire second half and on two separate occasions held the Lady Panthers without a bucket for more than five minutes.

Somehow Drury still managed to lead in the game's final minute, but UM-St. Louis guard Caitlyn Moody, junior, physical education, tied the score at 44 with a three-pointer from the top of the key with just 17 seconds left.

It was Moody's third three-point make of the game, and she finished with a team-high 13 points.

Unfortunately, the emotion of the moment did not last, and UM-St. Louis was outscored 13-6 in the extra period, sending the Triton women to their fourth straight loss.

The marquee matchup of Pack the Stands Night was supposed to be the men's showdown between the 16-6 Panthers and the 14-8 Tritons.

But the hard-fought, division-championship battle most anticipated happening on Thursday night never materialized, as Drury pounced on UM-St. Louis early.

The Panthers led by ten points for most of the first half,

pushed their lead to 13 points at halftime and ballooned that lead to more than 20 points early in the second half.

Drury eventually won the game 73-47 to clinch its second straight GLVC West Division championship, while also assuring the Panthers would get a home game in the first round of next weekend's GLVC Postseason Championship Tournament.

Losses in other GLVC action Thursday night allowed UM-St. Louis to also clinch a spot in the playoffs. But the Tritons still have more work to do if they are to earn a home playoff game for themselves.

UM-St. Louis will play twice this week on the road, first at Maryville University, on Thursday, Feb. 17, then in the regular season finale against Missouri S&T on Saturday, Feb. 19.

If the Tritons can win both those games, and get a little help from other teams around the league (specifically at least one loss each by Kentucky Wesleyan and Lewis), UM-St. Louis would get to host a first round playoff game when the GLVC Tournament begins on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The Triton women earned the 12th and final spot in the GLVC Women's Tournament with a 75-53 win over Rockhurst this past Saturday.

That 12th slot means UM-St. Louis will play No. 11 Quincy University in a first round playoff game at Quincy's Pepsi Arena on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Women's softball and basketball announces new signees for 2011-2012

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Athletics Department announced recently the signing of several student-athletes who have signed on to become Tritons once they graduate high school this spring.

The list of eight names released by the athletic department includes three women's basketball players and five women's softball players, who each will be eligible to play for the Tritons during the 2011-2012 academic year.

The three basketball signees include one local product, Kelsey Sikes of Timberland High School in Wentzville, and two out-of-state players, Alexis Lawrence of Bowling Green High School in Kentucky and Samantha Swarts of Faith Academy of Marble Falls in Texas.

Sikes is a 5'10" guard, who averaged ten points and seven rebounds per game as a junior, while shooting over 40 percent from behind the three-point line.

Lawrence, a 5'7" guard, averaged 14 points, three rebounds and 2.5 assists per game as a junior. Last season, she shot a sizzling 52 percent from the floor, and sank 97 three-pointers, including a school record with nine three-pointers made in one game.

Swarts, a 6'1" forward, averaged ten points, seven rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals per game last season. She is also a standout track & field performer, where she qualified for the state championship meet in the discus and shot put.

The five softball signees are Brianna Butler of Triad High School in Troy, Ill.; Katie Rutledge of Heritage High School in Broadlands, Ill.; Erica Schwarzauber of Mascoutah High School, Ill.; Katie Wood of Freedom HS in California; and Madison Zbaraschuk of Sequim High School in Washington state. Butler is a three-time all-Mississippi Valley Conference selection. As a junior last season, she earned first team all-conference honors at first base and was named to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Belleville News-Democrat all-area teams.

Butler was also selected as a "Top 5 Players to Watch" by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a "Top 10 Play-

ers/Pitchers to Watch" by ESPN Rise magazine. Rutledge is a three-time all-conference selection and a three-time News Gazette all-area selection, who helped her team to conference championships as a sophomore and a junior.

As a junior, she posted a .579 batting average, a .600 on-base percentage and a .711 slugging percentage. Rutledge owns school records for stolen bases in a game (5) and a season (31). Schwarzauber preps at Mascoutah (Ill.) High School and plays club softball for Black Widows 18U/Midland Magic. Wood is a two-time first team all-league player at Freedom (Calif.) High School at utility and outfield. She is also a three-time scholar-athlete and principal's honor roll selection. Zbaraschuk earned all-league and all-peninsula catcher honors as a junior at Sequim (Wash.) High School, while owning a .527 batting average. She also led the team in home runs and runs batted in and was named her team's Offensive Player of the Year.

The UM-St. Louis sports information department contributed some information to this story.

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From the stage of Touhill on Feb 5th, *Stop Kiss*, a play about a lesbian relationship.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

LGBT play 'Stop Kiss' receives standing ovation

THEATRE

"Stop Kiss" ended its run at the Touhill Performing Arts Center over the weekend, starting off its final fun by playing to a nearly packed house on Thursday night.

Set above a vibrant and colorful New York backdrop, "Stop Kiss" brings together two unlikely future lovers. The play, directed by Tlaloc Rivas and written by New York City based author, Diana Son, poignantly tells a story of a budding relationship between two women, who before meeting each other, had never considered themselves anything other than straight.

The plot begins as a normal day for Callie (Ashley Bauman, senior, secondary educa-

tion) as she ends her day rocking out only to be interrupted by a friend of a friend, Sara (Vanika Spencer, junior, theater and dance), who she soon finds out has a lot in common with her. The two humorously speak of their past and develop a quick friendship, which later on turns into something more.

The entire cast of "Stop Kiss" performed amazingly, from the enjoyable puns on life in a big city to the sly, sexual overtones. The characters all pulled out an enjoyably convincing tale. The only complaint an audience member might legitimately be able to make would have to do with the length of the show. At an hour and 45 minutes "Stop Kiss" can at times induce the feeling that the next scene should be the last. The nonlinear structure of the story does not help subdue those feelings either.

The story does feel too choppy at certain points and the chronological placement of certain flashback scenes seems at times ambiguous. Theatergoers who enjoy spice in their theatre entertainment will likely find "Stop Kiss" appealing. Aside from no breaks, and at last count, ten curtain drops, the story is compelling and has a nuance of sexuality rarely seen or spoken of on stage. All the supporting cast members did a good job of accentuating, but not inhibiting, the main story of Sara and Callie's budding and evolving relationship.

Their nascent relationship is put to the test when a heinous act is committed by a character who is only spoken of. The details of this event are revealed slowly throughout, adding to the overall emotion of "Stop Kiss."

The play is a powerful drama that seriously speaks to the injustices that people in the Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transsexual (LGBT) community face. At the end of the production three University of Missouri-St. Louis professors sat down with the audience to have a light round table on the topic of gender identity. Touching on the major psychological, personal and cultural behaviors of identity, one could easily see corollaries from the play that traverse more than just the stage. All in all the experience is one of a kind and the play's long running time of nearly two hours should not be a deterrent for anyone interested in better understanding the LGBT community.

A -Zachary James Kraft, Design Editor



Gallery Visio introduced "Digital" on Thursday, January 27 which lasts until February 17. YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

'Digital' age ushers in new photographic potential

ART

Gallery Visio is currently exhibiting a collection of photography primarily by University of Missouri-St. Louis students under the collective title of "Digital." The photographs contained in the current exhibition range from realism to expressionism, pertaining to topics as daily as a flower and as far reaching as a robot getting drunk on martinis.

Visio claims in its description of the exhibition that "This UMSL student exhibition features artists and designers in all forms of digital art; digital painting, computer based illustration, digitally manipulated photography, digital manipulations of traditional forms of art, mixed media with digital elements, CGI, etc."

While only seven artists are actually being exhibited at Visio, the variety of moods and expressions within the works is still astounding.

One artist, Danny Reise, has dedicated an entire wall of pieces based on old industrial structures to the exhibit. Dubbed "Ghosts of Industry," numbered one through five, each photograph depicts similar scenes of rustic ruin, while managing to portray entirely separate portions of the industrial growth the world has experienced throughout the ages. Perhaps one of the most groundbreaking factors of Reise's work, however, is the use of a digital inkjet on canvas. Through this stylization, Reise's work, despite being captured digitally, looks as though it was painstakingly painted for hours on end, adding a very majestic texture to the pieces.

Another artist, Jacob Lucas, portrays scenes of strife and war using a very unusual medium: Lego figurines and structures. From what appears to be a robbery, to a vicious forest battle, Lucas portrays human violence using one of America's most familiar childhood playthings. Lucas also happens to be the only non-UM-St. Louis student hosted within this exhibi-

tion, being a prospective UM-St. Louis student from Florissant Valley University.

Also included in the exhibition are several pieces by Virginia Harold, who specializes in inkjet portrayals. In the use of inkjet, the final outcome is a naturally glossed, hard to scratch portrait. Thus, these pieces require very little additional protection, and are also freed of the potential glaring impacts of a cover-slip or other protective screens. Harold's work varied from scattered photos in a subway system, creating a wondrous collage of the overall scene, to the intricacies and extravagance of a dancer's body in motion.

In addition to being on display for the viewing pleasure of any passerby with a spare moment, the work exhibited in Visio this month are also all for sale to any interested buyers. While a few pieces range as high as \$100, most are within the range of \$25-50. Even at the upper range, the work is all reasonably affordable, even to the poor college student archetype.

Visio claims that its "Digital" exhibit is meant to educate and create interest among UM-St. Louis students, faculty, staff and alumni for an increasingly popular form of artistry in the world of photography. As the world advances further and further into a highly technology-dependent age, it is necessary to ensure that old and new generations are exposed to the growth of digital art.

Gallery Visio will continue to showcase "Digital" through February 17, this coming Thursday. Take a moment to stop by and view the exhibit's exquisite digital work. One piece may even scream "take me home," and home will suddenly become a more cultured locale for years to come.

Visio will next exhibit the "Lifeblood" collection, starting on February 24, through March 24. There will be an opening reception, probably including food and drinks, on February 24, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

B -Matthew B. Poposky

LATEST + GREATEST

New Films Opening Friday, February 18

"Unknown"

(everywhere) - Liam Neeson is hoping for another hit like "Taken" in this thriller about a man who awakens from a coma to discover someone else has assumed his identity and not even his wife recognizes him. Also stars Diane Kruger, with screenplay co-authored by Stephen Cornwell, who is the son of legendary spy novelist John LeCarre, and directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who helmed "Orphan."



"I Am Number Four"

(everywhere) - D.J. Caruso directs rising star Timothy Olyphant, "Glee's" Dianna Agron and star-hopeful Alex Pettyfer, in a tale of nine teen space aliens hiding out on earth after an enemy species destroyed their planet. "Smallville" writers Alfred Gough and Miles Millar helped adapt a novel co-authored by disgraced memoirist James Frey, in this Disney production.



"Cedar Rapids"

(select theaters) - Indie comedy fresh from Sundance, about a clueless Midwesterner insurance agent (Ed Helms) attending his first business convention and taken under the wing of a group of "veterans" including John C. Reilly. From "Youth in Revolt" director Miguel Arteta.



Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell form strong team in Kevin Macdonald's Roman Britain tale "The Eagle"

MOVIES

"The Eagle" is an entertaining adventure tale, a sort of buddy picture in a historic landscape. Starring hunky Channing Tatum and talented Jamie Bell, it is based on Rosemary Sutcliffe's young adult novel "The Eagle of the Ninth."

With a premise that sounds vaguely like last year's "Centurion," this swords and sandals action-adventure tale is set in second century Roman-ruled northern Britain, where a Roman legionnaire and his Celtic slave venture into the wilds of Scotland beyond Hadrian's Wall. The Roman is on a quest to discover what happened when his father's Ninth Legion mysteriously vanished without a trace, along with their military standard, the Eagle.

Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum) arrives in Roman Britain to take over a remote outpost near Hadrian's Wall, which marks the end of the Roman world and the beginning of unconquered Scotland. Twenty years earlier, Marcus' father (Aladar Lakloth) led his storied legion into Scotland and never returned. Marcus bears a sense of shame and doubts about his father but is determined to redeem the family honor.

Recovering from battle wounds at the home of his uncle Aquila (Donald Sutherland) in a more civilized portion of Ro-

man Britain, Marcus determines to travel beyond Hadrian's Wall to recover the Eagle. He takes along a slave as a guide, a Celt named Esca (Jamie Bell) whose bravery so impressed him that Aquila rescued him from a death sentence. Beyond the wall, the Roman is in the slave's country.

The title is a bit of word play, as Aquila is Latin for eagle. Director Kevin Macdonald, who also helmed "Last King of Scotland," made the right choice to shoot mostly on location in Scotland, eschewing a lot of CGI scenery. The sweeping photography of the wild Scottish landscape is breath taking and does wonderful things for setting the epic tone of this story.

The director brought back much of his "Last King of Scotland" team for this project, including screenwriter Jeremy Brock and cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle, whose films also include "Slumdog Millionaire," "127 Hours" and "28 Days Later."

The story of a young soldier in a far off land, of a proud empire now facing intractable opposition by a technologically-inferior opponent in a distant and harsh landscape has echoes to today but no overt parallels are drawn. The film presents a mixed view of the Roman Empire, admirable for their organization, but arrogant as a conquering power. Nonetheless, it takes a soldier's eye view.

But this story is not a history lesson, nor even a particularly serious film, despite the book's historical underpinnings. This film is just entertainment. After all, we are talking about Channing Tatum.

Jamie Bell does the heavy lifting in acting, while Tatum is mostly called on to look noble and hunky, which he does splendidly. Yet the partnership and scenes between them work.

Still, the strong supporting cast and Scottish scenery help a great deal. Besides Donald Sutherland in a small but meaty role as Marcus' uncle, striking performances include Mark Strong as a former Roman soldier and Tahar Rahim as a fearsome warrior of the blue-painted Seal people.

While the film might do good things for Tatum's career, there is enough to this film that one has to wonder how much better it might have been with a stronger actor, such as Briton Tom Hardy, in the role.

There is action, although not so much that it overwhelms the story. There is magnificent scenery and enough character, plot and atmosphere to keep us interested. Overall, "The Eagle" offers plenty of old-fashioned adventure, if not much history.

B -Cate Marquis



The Roman epic adventure "THE EAGLE", a Focus Features release directed by Kevin Macdonald. COURTESY OF MATT NETTHEIM

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IN THEATRES 2.18.11

Features



Ling Ling Ng, Counseling Graduate student, explains the Safe Zone Seminar in Clark Hall on Friday.

Safe Zone seminar shines light on a hot subject

ASHLEY ATKINS
Staff writer

On Friday, February 4, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Safe Zone Program hosted a seminar on bullying, which spotlighted a documentary called "Bullied."

Guests arrived early and gathered around room 211 of Clark Hall. The turnout was more than expected and there was talk of being overcapacity. Fortunately, as everyone filed into the room, enough seating was found. The room remained silent as attendees were introduced to Safe Zone programming.

A part of the Teaching Tolerance series from the Southern Poverty Law Center, the film centered on the story of Jamie Nabozny and the physical, sexual and verbal harassment Nabozny suffered throughout junior high and high school because of his sexual orientation. As a result, he filed a lawsuit against the school district for failing to protect him.

The event attracted educators from the organization known as Safe Connections. Their mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of sexual and domestic violence, along with relationship violence through education, support services and public speaking.

Located in St. Louis, they have been active since 1976.

"It is one of the components of our program--getting kids to do something without having to stand out, call the cops or be the snitch in school," Koree Claxton, Project H.A.R.T. (Healthy Alternatives for Relationships among Teens) manager, Safe Connections, said.

Aside from Project H.A.R.T. and their work on campus, the organization also works with male groups that focus on boys and their issues. It was mentioned that even in a college setting, boys are still throwing around abusive terminology.

According to James R.W. Linsin, Psy.D., Counseling Psychologist and Coordinator of Outreach Health, Wellness & Counseling, bullying can have long term affects on a persons self-esteem and can lead to depression and anxiety. Individual could develop trust issues and relationship problems.

"If the bullying is encouraged or ignored, it can send the message that inflicting hurt on others is acceptable behavior," Linsin said. "This in turn could cause later problems with social interactions and a lack of respect for laws and authority."

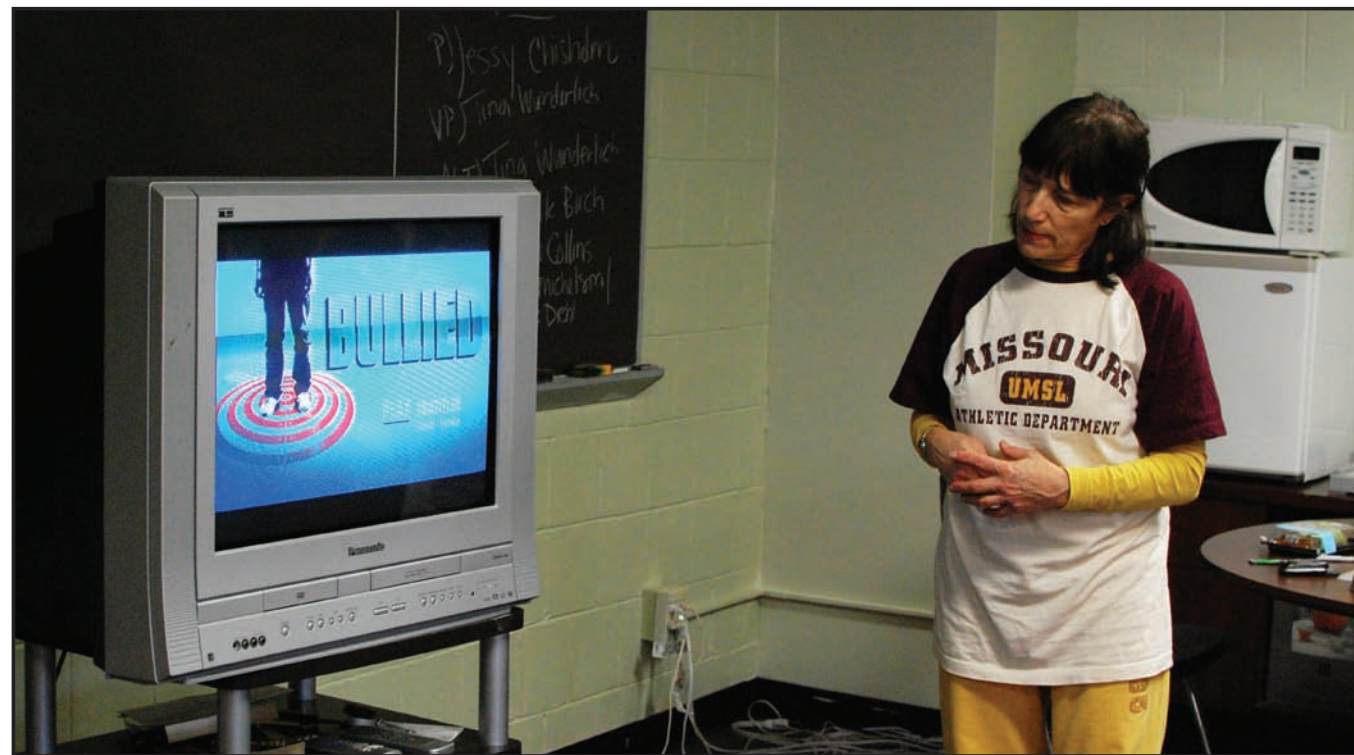
When the film came to a conclusion, Linsin lead a discussion. What started out as a room of quiet and shy individuals, turned into an informative discussion about Nabozny's story and what the school board should have done about it. Attendees made their own personal confessions of what they experienced in high school, bringing the subject even closer to home. Although some individuals had to excuse themselves from the seminar to continue on with their school day, a majority stayed behind to further discuss their thoughts and experiences.

Social work graduate student and Project H.A.R.T. prevention educator for Safe Connections, Terrell Borum, believes the event was wonderful.

"A lot of what we deal with are issues around homophobia," Borum said. "We talk about masculinity, and the ways that boys are able to express themselves. Mainly their emotions and feelings."

As for Susan Kashubeck-West, the event allowed her to put a face to Jamie Nabozny's story.

"I was reminded how important it is to pay attention to what is happening in our schools and how the systems in place often fail kids because they do not protect them," Kashubeck-West, professor of counseling, said. "We need to protect all kids."



Kathleen Nigro, a program advisor for Gender Studies, speaks about the video "Bullied".



Students watch the video about bullying on Friday, February 4.

PHOTOS BY YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

Faculty Profile:

Karen Cummings: Coordinator of art education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

MINHO JUNG

Staff writer

Karen Cummings has been working as a coordinator of art education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis since she joined the university's faculty in 2006. Recently, the Missouri Art Education Association awarded her for her outstanding performance in a higher education.

The Current: Can you tell us about your experience here at UM-St. Louis? What do you do?

Karen Cummings: I moved here in July [of] 2006 for the position here at UMSL. I'm an art history coordinator. I work primarily with undergraduates and some graduates in art education, preparing them to teach art in the classroom. So, basically what I do is to teach students to become teachers. I

enjoy working with students, giving them guidance and advising them on how to interact with their future students. I also continuously work with graduates that are currently teaching. [I] observe them in their classroom[s]. If there is problem they are struggling with, I give them advice. So, I work with them before they leave UMSL and I also work with them after they start teaching.

TC: What do you teach your students? What do you think are the most important qualifications for a good teacher has?

KC: [I teach them] how to develop their curriculums, how to determine what they want their students to learn and know at the end and how to develop activities and experiences to get that outcome. That is basically what I do. I don't think [the most important qualification of a good

teacher] is technical skills. They have to [be] compassionate and excited to work with kids. That really needs to be the focus. They really want to be working with students in the classroom. The subject they teach and skills are secondary.

TC: What did you study in college? Did you have a clear picture of what you would do back then? If not, what motivated you to do what you are doing now?

KC: I actually wasn't [an] art education major. I started out as an engineering major. Then, I became an architecture major. Then, I came into art education and [I] found this is what I wanted to do. I wasn't a student that knew that I want[ed] to be an art teacher. When I was teaching in high school, I would hear about students' art experiences. I felt that their experi-

ence could be better and more engaging. I thought that the best way that I could make that change would be to teach teachers [about] how [to] create those experiences. I think my inspiration comes from my students.

TC: Since you have changed your major from engineering to art education, do you have any comment for students who have not decided their major yet?

KC: When I was in high school, I encouraged students to go to four year universities or community colleges [and] try to take things that interest them. Find something that makes them excited and want to learn. I did not encourage a lot of my students to [enter] art school because I didn't think they [were] ready to make that decision when they [were] 17 or 18 years old. I encouraged them to try other things.



Dr. Cummings stands in front of a supply cabinet.

ZHENG ZHANG / THE CURRENT

TC: What are your future plans?

KC: I hope to be [at] UMSL continuing to work with undergraduates and possibly graduate students at some point, guiding and supporting teachers as they start working in their classroom[s].

Black History Spotlight:

Mildred Loving: Fighting for her right to love

JEN O'HARA

Features Editor

For those who have faced the challenges and triumphs of overcoming stereotypes when it comes to interracial relationships, give some credit to one Mrs. Mildred Loving. She was born as Mildred Jeter in 1939, part African-American and part Native American.

Her quest for justice began at age 11, when she met her future husband growing up in Virginia. Richard Loving, Caucasian and six years her senior, and Mildred became friends. As they grew older, they grew closer and began dating. At 18, Mildred became pregnant. So, Richard and Mildred decided to get married.

The two married in Washington D.C. Five weeks after their marriage, police burst into their bedroom in the middle of the night and demanded to know who Richard was sleeping with. When he responded "my wife," the police did not believe him. When the Lovings responded by showing their marriage license, the police responded, "It did not count." Soon after-

ward, both were arrested and taken to jail for interracial marriage. They pleaded guilty to breaking the Racial Integrity Act of Virginia.

The judge ruling their case proclaimed, "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay, and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement, there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

They avoided the initial one-year jail sentence by leaving the state and agreeing not to return to Virginia. After living in Washington D.C. for a few years, they decided to fight for their right to return to Virginia; they missed their family and friends and were not allowed to return unless they lodged and traveled separately. The Lovings wrote to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy asking for his help. He referred them to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The ACLU provided two lawyers to present their case, Bernard S. Cohen and Philip J. Hirschkop. The case pulled in the Lovings' favor, as the Supreme Court voted unanimously in June 1967. Soon afterward, Richard and Mildred moved

back to Virginia. They settled into a home and raised their children. In 1975, Richard and Mildred were both in a car accident. Richard was killed and Mildred lost sight in her right eye. For the rest of her life, she shied away from the limelight, often refusing to do interviews. She did, however, speak out at a press conference on the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision. Loving reminisced on her past and expressed her thoughts on the subject.

She also was noted for making statements supporting gay rights, like "I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard's and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about"

Mildred never intended on becoming a well-known historical figure. She was quoted as saying, "When my late husband, Richard, and I got married in Washington, D.C. in 1958, it wasn't to make a political statement or start a fight. We were in love, and we wanted to be married." Despite this, she did, in fact, become a noted inspiration for millions.

Valentine pre-show happens in Nosh



Students attend Speed Dating in the Pilot House on Thursday.

ZHENG ZHANG / THE CURRENT

ASHLEY ATKINS

Staff writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' Pilot House turned into a miniature congregation for the hopeless romantics last Thursday. Hosted by the Black Leadership Organizing Council (BLOC), the event, entitled Speed Dating, was thrown just days before Valentine's Day. The purpose of the social project was to promote mingling and finding new people in a new exciting way without having to go through awkward introductions and silence.

Publicity for the event reached out to a nearby university. Harris Stowe students found out about the function from a friend's Facebook profile.

"I wanted to try something different, something new," Marie Avery, senior, criminal justice, Harris Stowe, said. "Honestly, I have a fear of rejection so I was like 'I am going to conquer my fears.'"

Vice-President of BLOC, President of Black Greek Council, member of Zeta Phi Beta, and graduate student of psychology, Shakina Sheppard, seemed to be the one in charge of the event.

"We thought it would be something new, fun and exciting for campus," Sheppard said.

Walking into the event, one could see tables and booths set up, each containing two sheets of questionnaires. The questionnaires consisted of icebreaker questions for the couples such as "If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?" It also contained questions about hobbies and interests, all with the intention of making the participants feel more comfortable.

The social kicked off when the small group of men congregating in the hallway got up enough nerve to join the women already seated at the tables. Sheppard stood before the crowd and announced the rules of the game. The first rule was that the gentlemen would be the only people moving around from table to table. Secondly, the men only had two minutes with each lady. Finally, no one was to put down his or her speed date. The number of attendees came to a 50/50 man to woman ratio. Because the crowd was so small, a few claps of encouragement to extend the conversation time to three minutes was negotiated.

The first switch was a little uncoordinated but the men were able to get over to their next perspective partners with the help

of the women's gestures. One beckoned "Over here boo!"

Throughout the night a few more potential suitors joined the party "fashionably late," one taking a submarine sandwich to his table. His date was amused especially when the suitor played a game of tag team with one of his buddies mid-discussion. Almost as if he were saying, "You will like him better." He left the event, only to return with a large apple cranberry drink. One couple created a scandal by secretly not rotating. At another table, a man attempted to leave, joking that his date was mean.

"I really thought that it was a very good event. I like the fact that [there] was not a lot of people here, I feel like the numbers made it a little more intimate," Onosadavbeji Oghre-Ikanone, BLOC member, junior, pre-med/psychology, said. "I met some really cool people today."

The overall feeling of the night was the satisfying accomplishment of making new acquaintances.

Photographs were taken throughout the event for the organization's records. They were clearly proud to bring people together and give them a private platform in which they could openly express their private feelings with a complete stranger.

Valentine's Day facts



53 percent of women say they would break up with their significant other if they did not receive anything on Valentine's Day.



190 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged on average every year.



15 percent of women send flowers to themselves on Valentine's Day.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Shoddy journalism turns opinions into news

It is no secret: the Internet has changed journalism. The incredibly quick rise of the information superhighway has led to the decline of print media.

It is a well-known fact, and yet in the newspaper business, it is only spoken of in hushed tones: print media is dying.

In an age where blogs are breaking major news like the Monica Lewinsky scandal and websites like CNN.com are amongst the most visited in the world, print media is quickly becoming a thing of the past.

Helping it along is a new age of shoddy journalism tactics.

Now more than ever, so-called "journalists" have been abandoning the very tenets of journalism in favor of a biased, opinionated fervor. Apparently, getting both sides of the story is no longer profitable.

Pundits, both right wing and left wing, are cropping up everywhere.

Opinionated blowhards like Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Keith Olbermann, and Chris Matthews are telling people what to think and how to think it.

They are fear-mongering

in order to profit from the terror they sow. Beck himself is perhaps the most guilty of this, hawking his expansive knowledge about how the value of the dollar will collapse and why his listeners should put their trust in the value of gold.

Of course, the fact Goldline International, a precious metals futures vendor, is a major sponsor of his show does not factor into it at all--nor does the fact that Beck is a Goldline spokesperson.

Even locally, shoddy journalism is prevalent. Elliott Davis, the reporter behind Fox News Channel 2's "You Paid for It" segment, frequently uses confrontational tones and incorrect information to prejudice his interview subjects.

Take Davis' recent piece on our university's own UMSL Magazine.

Instead of allowing Bob Samples, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Communications, to calmly explain why the magazine is valuable, Davis uses confrontational tactics, like moving in really close to people, using his physical closeness to invoke a sense of unease.

He also has a tendency to interrupt people when they try and explain, pestering

them with incessant questions.

He does not give his subjects a chance to explain; for example, how UMSL's print magazine can help attract the donations of wealthy alumni without Internet access or that the magazine's cost is defrayed if it attracts at least four students to apply.

Davis barely gives his interviewees adequate time to respond.

Segments like his revolve around generating controversy. If Davis gave his subjects enough time to establish themselves and what they do, his segment would not be nearly as popular or effective.

Hostile interview tactics like Davis' only contributes to the rise of shoddy journalism.

In this time when blogs and news websites rule, classically-trained journalists are now more needed than ever. Getting both sides of the story is crucial, and helps transform a piece from being opinionated into solid journalism.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Andrew Seal, Ryan Krull, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Cederic Williams, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Priceless treasures deserve our protection

Hosni Mubarak's 30-year reign has finally come to an end. Now the Egyptian people can start the process of setting up a free and equal democracy.

But while the unrest has brought about good, it has had some dark downsides too. Early on the night of January 28, not long after the protests began in Cairo, people broke into the Museum. Priceless Egyptian antiquities, including some from the reign of King Tutankhamen, were damaged or stolen.

Among those relics missing, according to an article on CNN.com, are "a gilded wood statue of King Tutankhamen being carried by a goddess, parts of a gilded wood statue of Tutankhamen harpooning, a limestone statue of [Pharaoh] Akhenaten, [and] a statue of Nefertiti making offerings."

At least 17 artifacts are damaged or missing thanks to the looters. While it is appalling that some Egyptian citizens would stoop so low as to pillage their shared history to enrich themselves, it makes a horrific sort of sense.

Under Mubarak's iron fist, 80 million Egyptian citizens suffered from poverty and rising food prices. "You have to expect that some people are going to be desperate and look for any means necessary to try to improve their lot," said Kara Cooney, assistant professor of Egyptian art and architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, in

an article on CNN.com.

Thankfully, for every looter, there is an Egyptian willing to sacrifice his or her life to protect the priceless artifacts that make up their national heritage.

Indeed, as unrest spread the night of January 28, a multitude of citizens spread out around the Egyptian Museum of Cairo, linking arms and protecting the Museum from more looters. Those vandals already inside were arrested and taken into custody by the Egyptian army.

While many of the damaged artifacts are able to be repaired, many of the missing pieces will never be seen again. The black market for illicit Egyptian antiquities is notoriously hard to crack.

The protection of a nation's antiquities should be utterly paramount during a regime change. Egypt is not the only nation to have had their shared ancestry come under attack during a time of strife.

The National Museum of Iraq was heavily damaged and looted during the 2003 invasion. Though various antiquities experts and representatives from the American Council for Cultural Policy asked the Pentagon to ensure the Museum's safety, no promises were made.

American forces, however, did delay engaging forces inside the Museum. By doing so, they may have prevented collateral damage from occurring. However, massive looting went on while U.S. forces attempted



Andrew Seal

to secure the area.

In Iraq, at least 40 major pieces were stolen, of which only around 13 have been recovered. A great deal of the museum's above-ground storage rooms were broken into and 3,100 excavation site pieces were stolen. Thankfully, about 3,000 have been recovered thus far.

The underground storage rooms, many of which were locked, were also broken into, to the tune of 10,000 missing objects, 2,500 of which have been recovered, according to an article in the Marine Corps Gazette.

Those that would seek to profit off their nation's history are despicable. Regimes come and go, but a nation's historical wealth should endure. Regional armies need to work with antiquities experts to formulate strategies to protect priceless relics from looters and vandals.

The destruction and vandalism of the treasures from King Tutankhamen's tomb is unforgivable, but by working together, countries can ensure that no future tragedies like this happen. *Andrew Seal is Editor-in-Chief for The Current.*

What do you think?
Let us know at
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SCIENCE MATTERS

Fools in love and other science trivia

Valentine's Day is a love-it-or-hate-it kind of holiday. Detractors call it a made-up holiday, although it is no more made-up than Halloween, another holiday based on pre-Christian traditions. In the case of St. Valentine's Day, a Roman day devoted to romance was re-purposed as a saint's day, and in Victorian times, as a day for cards that could be romantic, or just as likely, silly or even insulting.

But what was once fun has been remade by marketing into an obligation to spend money. People are made to feel inadequate if they do not splurge on roses, whose prices are hiked for the occasion, or crowd into overbooked restaurants. Woe to those without a romantic date.

Forget that. Let us put a little fun back in the day, with some science trivia on love and heartbreak, whether you love or hate the holiday.

How long does it take to fall in love? Is there love at first sight?

It only takes a fraction of a second to fall in love, according to an October 2010 survey of research. Stephanie Ortigue, a Professor of Neurology at Syracuse University, found that it takes about a fifth of a second to fall in love. The research also found falling in love affects one emotionally and intellectually.

According to their findings, 12 regions of the brain work together when falling in love, resulting in the release of euphoria-inducing chemicals such as dopamine

(associated with pleasure), adrenaline (excitement and arousal), oxytocin and vasopressin (sense of well-being and nurturing). Having all that altered chemistry also affects sophisticated mental functions, such as body image, different areas of the brain involved in cognition and emotion are affected, as well as producing that racing heart.

Once in love, chemistry takes over. Blood levels of nerve growth factor a substance important in human social chemistry, which increases particularly in those who have just fallen in love. The sensation of "love at first sight" has a scientific basis.

When in love, the pleasure center of the brain is stimulated, as shown by MRI scans. Love lowers serotonin levels, something seen in obsessive-compulsive disorders, and one becomes obsessed with a new love.

But the trick is staying in love. Researchers indicate there are three phases of love - lust, attraction and attachment. Lust is the hormone-driven phase, while in the attraction phase, there is increased blood flow to the pleasure center and one becomes fixated on the love interest. During the attachment phase, a tolerance builds up to pleasure stimulants but other chemicals, such as endorphins, vasopressin and oxytocin, lead to a sense of well-being conducive to a lasting relationship.

How about the other side of the topic?



Cate Marquis

We have all heard of fools in love. Research indicates that all this altered body chemistry also creates a "love is blind" effect, altering one's rational judgment.

Then there is heartbreak. Love hurts. Rejection is the other side of romance. While incurable romantics like to propose on Valentine's Day, calculating people like to break up before.

The pain of heartbreak is linked to activity in brain regions associated with pleasure and addiction and areas involved in motivation and reward, according to a Journal of Neurophysiology study. Breaking up can be as hard as breaking an addiction.

On the lighter side, you could spend Valentine's Day with your favorite car. A study in the Journal of Consumer Research found that the way some people, like car enthusiasts, treat their special possessions looks a lot like romantic love, with the same obsession, blindness to flaws and devoted care.

Cate Marquis is Associate A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

'Dummies' should really smarten up

America has too many "Dummies". Books, that is. Too many "[insert subject here] for Dummies" books. Case in point: there's now a "Farmville for Dummies" book.

This is going overboard, people. This will not be a full-out bash on the "for Dummies" series, but honestly, when the world is getting to a point where a simple point-and-click game involving raising digital cows and potatoes requires a book "for Dummies" playing the game, something is wrong.

Look it up. Go ahead, take a moment. Yup, Amazon.com is selling "Farmville for Dummies" for anywhere from \$7-20, depending on the retailer and the quality of the copy being purchased. What does this book teach young (or, in most cases, old) players to accomplish? Why, they learn to work a digital farm, of course!

Again, this is not a bash against the entire series of "for Dummies" books. The series is actually published by a wide variety of contributors. With over 15,000 titles in circulation in the present day, the series has certainly done some good to gain such a popular following. The problem is that they may be going down a similar path as the "Nightmare on Elm Street" series did. Naturally, this is a rough comparison, but think about it momentarily. Did Freddy need to come back that many times? No, of course not.

Does humanity really need books teaching them to point-and-click at little cows and chickens for endless hours on end, to the point that they lose their jobs and/or shake their children to death? Not likely...not yet, at least. Humanity has not devolved to quite that point.

Take another example. Amazon.com also lists a "for Dummies" to help those having difficulties understanding the age-old Imagination Land of "Dungeons and Dragons." This is slightly more understandable: a game which has well over 20 guides of its own is certainly more complicated and has far more potential for confusing players than does Farmville. However, this still seems a moot point to publish such a book, and for an entirely different reason than "Farmville for Dummies." In this case, there are already entire player's manuals written to help players of the game learn anything they could possibly wish to learn about the game "Dungeons and Dragons." There are manuals to learn basic gameplay elements, how to create one's own class, and even monster manuals and basic story manuals to help the less, shall we say, creatively-inspired.

Now, maybe the "for Dummies" edition summarizes this information nicely. However, to summarize a collection of over 20 other multi-hundred page manuals would certainly take more than the roughly 400



Matthew B. Poposky

expended in this lightweight imitation. Thus, players using the "for Dummies" edition will likely actually be at a further disadvantage for having read this work than had they made the effort to actually acquire even the most basic of player's manuals from Amazon.com. Oh, and the price difference is no excuse: the "Player's Handbook" runs only ten dollars more than the "for Dummies" edition. Grow up and learn things the proper way from time to time. It is honestly embarrassing to live in a world where somebody can make money off of a book called "Farmville for Dummies." The game requires no more concentration than drinking a glass of wine, and the fact that there are "dummies" in this game is rather disturbing.

The fact that such a title is actually earning money is probably one of the most impressive and depressing things to pop up in recent news. Educate thyself properly!

Matthew B. Poposky is a Staff Writer for The Current.

Does science matter?
Let us know at thecurrent-online.com

We agree with Matthew.
Do you?
www.thecurrent-online.com

Point/Counterpoint



Is Bristol Palin the best standard for sex education?

Teen mother possibly best to speak on teen sex education

Washington University's Student Health Advisory Committee wanted to have Bristol Palin come to their campus to speak about teen abstinence. Ostensibly, this infuriated quite a few students.

Many people who opposed her going to Washington University said they were offended over her speaking fee: approximately \$20,000. But any outrage over what Bristol was being paid is illegitimate. Washington University is a private school and Palin is a private citizen, whatever they work out between them is their business.

But for most of the "offended" it would not have mattered if she was appearing pro bono.

No matter what Bristol Palin does, it will be met with feigned outrage and genuine hatred by some who just cannot tolerate actions done by anyone related to the former governor of Alaska. The fracas surrounding her teen abstinence soap box is just the latest example.

Many are saying that the whole thing has nothing to do with her last name, but everything to do with the hypocrisy that comes with a teen mom espousing teen abstinence.

But really, who better than a teen mom?

It is not unthinkable that singer Chris Brown might one day be able to be an influential case as to why domestic violence is bad for both members of a relationship. Likewise, who would make a better anti-drug advocate, particularly one with a message directed to the college aged crowd, than Robert Downey Jr.? Robert Downey Jr. could talk about the time he accidentally broke into his neighbor's house and passed out in some kid's bed. He could also talk about how his smoking crack cost him millions of dollars in lost movie roles as well as very nearly costing him his life and career.

But by the same logic utilized by the Palin-haters, Downey would be a hypo-

crite for telling his story in hopes that others not make the same mistakes he did. However, it almost goes without saying that if Washington University asked the Iron Man star to come and speak about abstaining from drugs no one would utter a single word in protest. The complaints about Bristol Palin are entirely fueled by a deranged, obsessive hatred for her mother.

Just a quick anecdote demonstrating how deep the illogical and obsessive hatred for Bristol Palin has been known to run: when she made it to the finals on the most recent season of *Dancing with the Stars* there was an article of the Huffington Post that alleged, in all seriousness, the existence of a vast right wing conspiracy responsible for keeping her on that show. That right there demonstrates that much of the criticism coming at Bristol Palin is coming from a section of America's left, not rooted in sanity.

Single mom not a model for abstinence-only education

It appears that once again, drama has hit the Palin family, except not with momma "Sarah."

Sarah's daughter Bristol Palin has been in the St. Louis limelight for the past few weeks in regards to a Sex Week at Washington University.

Bristol Palin was scheduled to talk at Wash. U. about teen pregnancy and abstinence. The talk rumored was to cost Wash.U. several thousand dollars and come directly out of student fees.

After protests from students on Facebook and an extremely negative reaction on the campus, Bristol Palin and Wash. U. both decided that it would be best for the lecture to be cancelled.

Both parties viewed that the turmoil surrounding the event would outweigh the message Bristol Palin was intended to share.

The entire situation of Bristol Palin speaking at Wash. U. brings up hundreds of puzzling questions. Wash. U. and Bristol Palin both can

take equal blame in this situation.

The largest question that arises out of this situation is why would Bristol Palin be talking about teen pregnancy on a college campus? Sure, it would make sense in a high school, where there are an abundance of teens.

But at the college level would it not be wiser to talk about safe sex rather than abstinence?

Face it, 20+ year-olds have already made up their mind about abstinence versus, well, not being abstinent.

And what qualifies Bristol Palin to charge such outlandish fees (Palin is said to charge anywhere from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for each appearance)?

Sure she had a son at a young age and she is the daughter of a vice-presidential candidate, but there are millions of teenage mothers across the world who would teach students more about the actual situations that can arise with unplanned pregnancy. On top of that, they

would probably use the money more wisely.

But more questions arise, like where is Bristol Palin's son while she is travelling around the country and speaking about abstinence and teen pregnancy? Home in Alaska? Traveling around with her?

Neither situation really sounds like a good way to raise a son. Where was her son when she was *Dancing with the Stars*, making it almost to the end?

Maybe Bristol Palin needs to be rethinking the way she is raising her son rather than trying to inform others for an outlandish cost.

However, the story has a happy ending, with Bristol Palin not visiting Wash. U., and hopefully staying home to be a good mother to her son.

Let us just hope that Wash. U. will think a little bit more next time before they hire a poorly qualified speaker and pay them an exorbitant amount of money.

Have something on your mind this week?
www.thecurrent-online.com

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Online COMM classes seem a bit redundant

Communication is an ever-growing major, and even minor, for many college students. Having the ability to not only effectively communicate your thoughts, but also the thoughts of the company or business that you work for to clients is extremely valuable.

Despite the concepts that are taught in Communication courses, it almost seems as if we are losing the main aspect that students are intended to learn. By putting COMM classes online, students are missing out on the most important goal that should be taught in these courses: face to face communication skills.

Almost 30 Communication classes this semester alone are being taught online. Some of the courses may have lecture sections to them, but in quite a few cases, there are not. There are a few classes required for the Communication degree that are solely taught online.

A COMM class that is taught solely online does not make any sense. Students take the class to learn and refine their communication skills to a point that would make them look desirable to future employers. Getting rid of the social aspect that often defines a successful communicator does not seem like a wise choice, especially

in a society that is becoming more and more reclusive due to online networking and cell phones.

Many aspects of our lives today have lost the personal touches of face to face contact with other individuals. Instead of inviting people to a party personally, why not create an event on Facebook? Instead of calling to make dinner plans, why not just send out a mass text? Instead of making new friends in a class, why not e-mail them to get the missed assignment?

Being a product of our generation, it is easy to understand why schools are jumping on the bandwagon to catch their students' interest with their computer enrapt lives. But doing it with Communication courses is not something that should be done lightly. After time, students can become conditioned to thinking that all communication will be done screen to screen, rather than face to face.

We keep losing all of the interaction that people like our parents and grandparents grew up knowing. Many students today do not know how to make small talk because they are so used to simply chatting with friends online.

Online classes are not all bad and it is easy to understand their value. Allowing



Janaca Scherer

students to be off campus and work on assignments in their own time is extremely helpful to those working or with families. The option to do work at three in the morning is definitely a desirable quality for many college students.

However, being in college requires some sacrifices, especially when it comes to social free time. Actually sitting in the class will require students to put forth more of an effort, reading the text, and retaining some of the information that the course requires you to learn.

Online classes are best left to a minimum. Do not go overboard. Stick with an even balance of just one or two and you will not drown in anti-social behavior or too much lecture course load.

Janaca Scherer is Staff writer and a columnist for The Current.

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Piggybacking on a revolution

"Millions are in uproar in Cairo. Rumor is they heard our new spring collection is now available online." So reads a February 3rd post from American fashion designer Kenneth Cole's Twitter account. To make matters worse, not only did he include a link to his online store, he "tagged" Cairo in the aforementioned post, making it visible to anyone searching for Egypt-related updates on Twitter. Cole managed to trivialize an entire revolution in 142 characters or less – all in order to sell overpriced designer shoes.

This kind of opportunistic advertising left a bad taste in the mouths of many, despite the apology Cole posted on his Facebook page in the hours following the original tweet. Making light of a revolution where people are dying in the streets to fight for what they believe in, all in order to peddle his wares, is hugely insensitive.

However, this is not the first time that Cole has done something like this, though his previous actions were a lot more tasteful; during the Gulf oil crisis his company produced shirts with slogans such as "I Clean Up Well" and "Support the Gulf." All of the proceeds from the shirts were donated to

aWEARness, the Kenneth Cole Foundation which supports clean-up efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, among other pet causes of Cole's.

He has undertaken similar projects in the past, advocating for increased AIDS/HIV awareness, so it is not as if Cole does not know how to be socially conscious and tasteful at the same time. Fashion and larger global issues do not have to exist in entirely different worlds. It is possible for the two to build upon one another and work in tandem to bring about and support positive change.

It is commendable that he has used his clout in the past to bring awareness to issues that are bigger than both him and the fashion industry, but that does not earn him a pass from ever being called out on anything in the future. Attempting to turn a profit from the very real struggles of others is deplorable – and, to put it in fashion terms, tacky. All eyes are on Egypt right now and Cole's post was an ill-advised attempt to garner a portion of that attention and place it onto him and his business ventures.

Just as troubling are the slew of people coming to the defense of Cole's statement and in the process changing the conversation from the



Sharon Pruitt

importance of cultural sensitivity onto long-suffering rants about how inconvenient and oppressive it is to have to be so "politically correct" these days. However, it is not a matter of Cole being "edgy" or "ahead of his time," but rather a question of taste and simple empathy towards your fellow man.

Cole's PR team should be re-evaluating their career choices if something this tasteless made it past them. History is being made in Egypt – the significance of that goes far beyond releasing a line of clothing in fresh spring colors, and Cole should have realized that before he hit the submit button. Unfortunately for him, nothing is ever truly forgotten when it takes place on the Internet.

Sharon Pruitt is a Staff Writer for The Current.


Like what you see?
**Would you like to share
your own opinion?**

Let us know at thecurrent-online.com


**Do you agree
with Sharon?**
www.thecurrent-online.com

Puzzles


CURRENT HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)


This week will be very lonely. Do not talk to anyone because they will not talk back.

**LIBRA**
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)


The Libra is one of cleverness and skill. Try to place your hands on a hot stove as fast as you can, or don't.

**TAURUS**
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)


Taurus, you normally go to a luncheon to touch your cats and then fall asleep next to a hairy cat. Make tonight the night and marry an ape.

**SCORPIO**
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)


On this Monday, you will stay home watching soaps. This will change your life in two ways. You will find out you have amnesia and that you can eat an entire box of ice cream sandwiches.

**GEMINI**
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)


Recently, your twin found a magic rune. You think it's going to be helpful to humanity but of course a white bald guy will use it for evil. Stay tuned.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)


You can't stop thinking about the problems Earth is facing. All you do is hear pollution this, human rights violations that. Just take it easy and have a healthy glass of milk.

**CANCER**
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)


Being silent all this week will come to be the way to approach all your troubles, until you get new teeth on Friday.

**CAPRICORN**
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)


You woke up to large bells and an ape telling you to clean up your side of the cage. Is this the future or the past? Who cares, apes rock!

**LEO**
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)


After waking up from your afternoon nap, you find you lost your red crayon. Time to teach Timmy you mean freakin' business!

**AQUARIUS**
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Run. Then walk. Then later on this week, watch a movie with a trusted friend. This friend will want you to rub them in oil, do it! Only good things can come from it.

**VIRGO**
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)

Work's long and class is hard, but you're very smart, patient and diligent. You will feel better by the week-end. Also, enjoy more fruits and veggies.

**PISCES**
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You cannot take it any more! Who keeps using your towels for rags? Advice: next time it happens, throw your roommate's clothes on the floor to prove that you don't play games.

CURRENT WORD SEARCH

Valentine's Day

D	S	X	K	B	H	H	Y	Y	L	F	B	H	E	W
V	T	S	E	A	C	S	R	Z	F	A	O	V	V	F
V	B	A	O	K	E	A	W	C	T	J	O	E	R	M
Y	R	I	P	F	U	R	I	E	R	L	G	T	T	K
S	D	Q	O	R	R	O	B	L	E	O	K	A	E	D
L	O	N	B	H	E	A	R	T	S	T	Q	L	E	D
T	A	E	A	U	O	Y	O	J	R	R	S	O	W	Y
Y	F	I	A	C	N	S	S	V	N	A	J	C	S	L
Z	D	Q	P	D	C	S	E	O	Q	S	E	O	V	T
S	N	H	Y	U	T	N	S	D	R	A	C	H	Q	T
S	T	R	A	E	H	T	E	E	W	S	M	C	X	C
P	I	N	K	B	Z	V	R	R	B	Q	M	I	B	L
G	N	R	H	O	R	E	T	R	L	A	N	I	N	D
M	R	G	K	A	D	U	W	X	Z	K	W	E	K	E
S	M	E	H	T	R	F	N	W	G	S	Q	Z	X	C

- BEARS

BOAT

CANDY

CARDS

CHOCOLATE

FEBRUARY

HEARTBREAK

HEARTS
- LOVE

MINE

PINK

RED

ROSES

SWEET

SWEETHEARTS

SWEETS

Comics

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



Max and Lobo by Gail Fike



The Current needs cartoonists

CAN YOU DRAW?
ARE YOU HILARIOUS/WITTY?
IF YOU ANSWERED "KINDA" TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS,
STOP BY 388 MSC AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION. TURN IN SOME SAMPLES OF YOUR STRIP, ALSO.

OR YOU CAN E-MAIL US AT THECURRENTJOBS@UMSL.EDU

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrentads@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone submissions.



Procurement Services hosts the surplus tag sale on Friday on the J.C. Penney Building. The sale runs monthly and items including desks, computers, tables, chairs, and printers are sold.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

Monday, Feb. 14

Get published: 2011 Litmag now taking submissions!

At 7:30 a.m., located in 485 Lucas Hall and is open to all. Guideline: Short Stories: up to 20 pages, no story longer than 5-6 pages. Poetry: up to 10 pages no poem longer than 3 pages. Email attached submissions to submit_2_litmag@yahoo.com drop off hard copy submissions to 485 Lucas Hall. Litmag will be published in the Current on April 18. Winners will be selected in each category. Each winner will receive a prize and the chance to present their work at the Launch Party on April 22. For more information, contact Emily Grise at 314-516-5614

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Resume reviews in the Nosh

From 11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. located in The Nosh. Open to all. Stop by the career services table in the nosh for resume reviews! We'll be there from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Find us at the bottom of the escalator! No appointment required. For more Information contact Alaina Kantner at 314-516-5111

Thursday, Feb. 17

Trivia Night sponsored by Campus Rec

At 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., located in the Provincial House on South Campus, open to students. Free to students, faculty, staff, family and friends... gather your team today! Maximum of ten team members per table. Lots of prizes and free pizzas/sodas for all participants. To enter, sign-up at the Campus Rec office, 203 MT by Tues, Feb. 15th. For Information, contact Campus Recreation, 203 Mark Twain at 314-516-5326.

A SPECIAL EXHIBITION

CLIMATE CHANGE

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April 28 - 7PM

Saint Louis Science Center

\$10 with student ID

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